

The Festival of Sirius [Festival of the Nations]

The Subtle Meanings of the Full Moon in Aquarius

By Malvin Artley

Greetings Everyone, and a happy full moon period to you! This full moon, as the title suggests, coincides with the Festival of Sirius (more on that shortly), and marks the Leo full moon festival. I have called this particular festival the "Festival of the Nations", or the "Festival of Government", for Leo carries the torch of leadership within the Zodiac, and it has a particular emphasis upon the organization and leadership of groups of all types, even though the sign of Leo is most often associated with the cult of individualism and egocentricity in most people's eyes.



From my childhood I can recollect my father (who is a Leo) walking into rooms full of people on several occasions and exclaiming to all gathered within: "Here I am, all you lucky people!" No ego there, just truth--or so says the Leo. And, if the Leo in question is possessed of their usual big, lion heart, zest for life, and natural ability to infectiously motivate people, then--yes--the ones who stand in the presence of one so endowed are lucky. The fact that this full moon coincides with the Festival of Sirius this year is auspicious, too, as we shall see. With that being said, I will get to the full moon in due course, but this Sirian Festival bears some investigation first so we get the greatest measure from the meaning of this full moon.

The Festival of Sirius

What follows regarding Sirius is more technical than what I would normally send out, so I ask for the reader's forbearance. I doubt I would have to be this technical again. But I do so because it is vital that we come to understand what this star and its associated system really represent to us. Just what marks this Festival of Sirius? Astronomically, it is linked to the date of the heliacal rising of Sirius, i.e., when Sirius rises at the same time as the Sun. This occurs around the 8th-9th of August, when the Sun is at about 15 degrees of Leo.

For this reason some people equate the full moon of Leo with the festival of Sirius, but this is not strictly correct. It is only so from our present point of history, but it has not always been thus. In the days of ancient Egypt the pyramids were all aligned so that certain portals within the walls of those structures channeled the light of Sirius straight into the king's chamber on the date of the Sirian heliacal rising. In Egypt in those days that marked the summer solstice--the point of 0 degrees of Cancer in the zodiac--

and the hottest part of their summer. It also marked the coming of the rainy season and thus ensured prosperity for the people.

Precession of the Equinoxes

But, due to the precession of the equinoxes that alignment no longer occurs at the summer solstice. It would be fascinating to learn if the solstice in those days corresponded to the 0-degree point in both the sign and the *constellation* of Cancer, for that would mean that the pyramids were erected not just as indicators or markers for their time, but for all time. That would mean that all the solstice and equinox points would exactly coincide with their constellation namesakes when this alignment with the portals took place. This would indicate much to esotericists and occultists, but it is beyond the scope of this article.

History and Meaning of Sirius

Sirius has a fascinating history and meaning behind it. It is the most revered on our planet of all the fixed stars, for good reason. Sirius is Alpha Canis Major, an A1 (bluish-green) variable class star of 2.4 solar masses with a visual magnitude of -1.46, making it the brightest fixed star in our heavens. It is called the Dog Star, hence the term "dog days of summer", and is also known as Canicula and Aschere. The Chinese knew it as Lang, the Celestial Wolf. It is a binary star, having a white dwarf companion star (a "solar moon") orbiting it, hence making its light to our globe variable due to periodic obscuration by its companion. It lies at a distance of 8.7 light-years from us, which is significant because it means we are closely connected with it in more ways than one. Due to its mass, it will end its days in a spectacular explosion (nova) and become what is known as a neutron star --a very small but incredibly dense dark body in space--a "gravity body" and potent source of x-ray and cosmic ray emissions (only the most massive stars become black holes). I mention all these facts because they will be highly significant to some readers.

A Benefic Influence

Astrologically, Sirius is largely seen as a benefic influence. Of it, it is said to produce great things from small beginnings. It is said to bring honor, wealth, renown, faithfulness and devotion. It makes natives who have it prominent in their charts custodians, curators and guardians. In aspect with planets it gives success, gain and fame with trines, sextiles and certain conjunctions, and brings violent death and loss with squares and oppositions. The Chinese said that when it is unusually bright or changed color (was not obscured by its "moon" or by atmospheric conditions) it portended theft and attacks from pirates. Projected onto the ecliptic it is found at 14 Cancer these days, but it is actually some 40 degrees off the actual zodiacal wheel, so interpreting it in a zodiacal manner is somewhat questionable, unless one uses spherical aspects, for the more technically-minded.

But, when we get into the esoteric side of the matter the true importance of Sirius to our corner of the universe becomes potently clear and also shows why it should be considered in some manner when looking at any horoscope.

The Star of Mercury, the Guide of Souls

Sirius was called the star of Mercury or Budha (spelling is correct)--the great Instructor of mankind before the Buddhas (before the Lemurian race). At the early stages of the Lemurian race there was a tremendous influx of force from Sirius and Venus onto our planet and the great event called Individualization took place--the human Souls were brought to Earth and our true humanity was born.

This brings us to the crux of the matter: Sirius is said to hold an analogous position to our Sun as the individual human Soul does to the persona. It is analogous to the Soul of our solar system. Now--that being said--there are some who will balk at the statement just made, because Sirius has connotations of mind control to them. And, in fact, that is exactly what it does. But, we have to put certain things into perspective regarding that.

What is "Soul"?

I should define what I mean by the term "Soul", for there is a general unclarity among the public at large about what a soul actually is. Such an understanding is important here because it clarifies our relationship to Sirius, among other things. As humans, we are composed of 4 basic types of being, and these are in "ascending" order:

[T]he persona, or little self--body, desires, lower mind. The "Dweller on the Threshold";

1. the Soul--higher mind, or "Angel of the Presence". This being exists entirely on the higher levels of mind. It acts as a way-station between the persona and the:
2. Spiritual Triad, or Solar Angel. This is the higher Self, as I use the term. It exists on the highest level of mind, higher emotions (Buddhi or intuition) and spiritual Will. It is the higher correspondence to the little self; and
3. the eternal Spirit (Monad), the higher correspondence to the Soul.

So, to make the relationship with Sirius clear, there is a direct connection and analogy, in "descending order", between Sirius and our Sun, Venus and the Earth, and our Souls and us. It is through our Souls that we come to understand Sirius.

Cosmic Mind

Sirius is said to be the transmitter of a mysterious faculty called "Cosmic Mind" to our solar system. There is a great Law which governs the relation of Sirius to our solar system, too, which is called the Sirian Law of Karma in the esoteric literature. This means, essentially, that Sirius functions as a limiting, judicious, but benevolent and teaching factor in relation to our solar system in its true, highest essence, much like Saturn does toward our humanity. Saturn is not evil, but it does control certain aspects of our being through limiting our movements and forcing us to learn, to struggle and to come to terms with the Law and time, hence our dislike of it.

Sirius performs the same task for our solar system via our Sun, thus training all aspects of mind within our system. This is what might be called the Mind of God, so far as we can know it in our world. In its higher form it is actually the transmitter of higher cosmic Mind, or *Buddhi-Manas*--illuminated Mind. Sirius

is thus the prototype for the spiritual government on our planet and in our solar system. The problem comes in when this sort of thing gets stepped down into the various humanities of our little piece of Heaven, of which there are many hundreds on the various globes in the vicinity of Sirius in our galaxy.

Any humanity is imperfect, relatively speaking, and is comprised largely of personalities with some measure of soul light infusing them. The main problem with any developing humanity or individual human is this thing we so glibly call "mind"--the "slayer of the real". It is the nature of mind at any level--whether human or cosmic--to separate, to categorize, to catalog and to differentiate, as well as to enquire, to bring together, to produce coherent and cohesive action and to energize any form it contacts or influences. Lower mind sees only the part and is limited and separated from the Divine. The higher mind (Soul) is group oriented and aligned with purpose, thus producing cohesive action.

The Dark Lords, or the Path of Light?

In my last article [[Mars, the Red Orb](#)] I mentioned the Dark Lodge, and this separative factor of lower mind is the pre-eminent factor in the production of a Dark Lord, or black magician. It should be clearly stated here that there is such a thing as Cosmic Evil and that there are some very mighty Dark Lords at the levels of Sirius and beyond. But, they are very few and far between. They are also held firmly in check for the most part.

We should keep very clearly in mind, too, that though humans err, we are good for the most part. It takes extremes of wickedness to produce a true black magician, and this is very rare, indeed. The whole scenario puts one in mind of all the Star Wars movies and the epic battles between Light and Dark in the galaxies far, far away--supposedly. We, as people, tend to focus too much on "dark forces" and to fear things which we have no business pondering upon anyway. We are admonished, as eternal students on the Path of Light, to go about our daily affairs and lives and to leave the work of banishing evil to our immediate sphere of existence, which usually means our own darkness and the darkness of our immediate associations. "Be ye fishers of men", and a Light unto dark corners.

I digress here, but in my dealing with people over the years I have come upon this subject of "dark forces" more times than I care to count. People fear it and it breeds a prurient curiosity in some. I hope to make clear here that true evil is a rare thing, that most of what we call "evil" is simply people making sometimes serious mistakes in judgment, though their inner essence is good and that all that is needed in most cases is a simple matter of re-education and as much loving wisdom as we can bring to bear upon any given circumstance.

Fear is separative and is the product of a misdirected mind. Let us be sure that when we feel fear that we have good reason to feel it. We should ask ourselves often what our fears gain for us and what kind of example we set for those around us when we focus upon negativity in ourselves or others. Will our actions be of any consequence in even a year's time? And, if so, what? People might think ours to be a world too caught up in evil, but this is a sad and mistaken notion. A slight change in perspective can make a world of difference in outlook.

Energy Centres in the Body of the Cosmic Being

Let us also be clear that any humanity is only one aspect of a much greater systemic reality, and in terms of the number of Spirits present on any globe, *always* in the minority. The true purpose of any planetary, solar or cosmic Being is never truly reflected in its humanity, or in any isolated systemic factor, for that matter. We are as cells within the body corporate of our planet. This leads me to the next point: When we talk about Sirius being analogous to the Soul of our Sun, we are not talking about a single star. We are talking about what might be called the Constellation of Sirius. And, there is, indeed, such a constellation.

The star Sirius is actually the focal point for the corporate body of a great cosmic Being. Our Sun is said to be like a chakra or energy centre within that Sirian body, just like our Earth is an energy centre within our solar system. In fact, there are roughly 4 dozen stars within our immediate vicinity, most--if not all of them-- having some place within the Sirian system. Most of them are very faint from our perspective and would go unnoticed to the casual observer. Most of them are either red or orange dwarf stars, like our Sun.

Consider that each of these stars is likely to have planets orbiting them, most with some type of humanity. Consider, too, that our humanity is different from most other humanities, given esoteric teachings. Most humanities obey their systemic laws. We, on the other hand, are a rebellious lot. Even at that, we fare pretty well, all things considered. Having taken in these points, now consider the absolutely marvelous complexity, diversity, sheer number and blessed endowment of lives with which we are associated on our little Sirian speck of dust within the immensity of the Milky Way Galaxy--all 60,000 lt.yrs. and hundreds of billions of stars worth. Do our little problems matter? No--and yes, for there are no little things. We only have eternity to get things right, so we had better hurry. ;-)

Brothers in the Cosmic Neighbourhood

When we look at astrology we almost never stop to ponder that there are, in fact, humanities on the planets we look at or that are on planets orbiting the fixed stars that we use in horoscopes. Nor do we stop to consider that the major fixed stars that we use are actually stupendous centers of Being, presiding over possibly millions of different evolutions, many of which are very different from our own, some of which are similar. In fact, it is said that there are humanities in other worlds that would be scarcely recognizable to us as being human--yet, they are. And, when we look at Sirius in the horoscope, we do not recognize the fact that it represents our entire cosmic neighborhood and the brotherhood we form with who knows how many hundreds of humanities on other planets. This is what Sirius really represents--Brotherhood, Community and the Mind of God. Therefore, when we celebrate the Festival of Sirius, we pay homage to our immediate celestial Community and realign ourselves with the Purpose which guides our little system. If we see Sirian influence as limiting we need to look higher and ask ourselves why we might feel that sense of control or limitation and see it as a lesson and a blessing, recognizing that all energies can be misused and misunderstood.

We are told that the majority of human Spirits eventually pass on to Sirius, and that the path is marked by the attributes of cosmic rapture and rhythmic bliss. I will leave that to your imaginations. But that

path lies very far in the future for us. We should be clear that when Sirius rises with the Sun they are not conjoined in the heavens by aspect, but they are conjoined in purpose, and it should be a time of the most sought-after meditative bliss and rapture, for it unites us in some small manner with our cosmic brethren. The fact that it comes at this point in history in Leo adds weight to the fact that Leo governs leadership. Leo is also governed by the Sun at all three rulership levels--the only sign to be ruled by only one planet--which furthers the alignment with Sirius and with our own Souls. The three levels of astrological rulership to which I refer are the outer (orthodox), inner (consciousness or esoteric), and levels of purpose. Now that this is out of the way we can all breathe again and get on with the full moon forecast.

The Full Moon

This full moon will occur at 2:49 PM AEDT on the 12th of August, 2003. Saturn is conjunct the projected degree of Sirius on the zodiac and the Sun is at the 20th degree of Leo, which reads:

"Zuni Indians perform a ritual to the Sun"

You don't get much better than that for a Leo symbol.

The opposite degree, 20 Aquarius reads:

"A large white dove bearing a message."

A ritual of our own choosing to suit our individual and group needs over the full moon period would likely go a long way toward aiding us in our chosen tasks and discoveries. Rituals, rightly done and earnestly attended to, always bring their messages, and the message of peace as represented by the dove is an overriding theme in the world at the moment. Add to these symbols the fact that the Sun aligns with Jupiter and Venus, and the Moon aligns with Neptune, then we have one very powerful planetary configuration portending united community effort, dissolving of differences, creative work and intuitive insight of a high order and an ability bridge all sorts of differences. Add to this that Mars is trine to Saturn and we see that energies will be well-directed and passions put toward constructive ends, then the setup for any type of leadership project is excellent.

With the Leo purpose aligned with Sirian purpose, then great things can truly come from small beginnings. This is no time to hold back. If there is something which needs to be organized and put to the public, don't let this full moon go by. The only problems will be in communication. Be very careful to put aside a tendency to let old hurts and personal agendas spoil the wisdom of each passing moment. The grandest plans can meet with success at this time, so long as things are carefully thought through. Build steadily, with certainty, with vitality and with as much heart as one can stand to put forward. If our plans are in accordance with highest good and right timing, then we have one of the best guarantors of success for group work and individual effort for the common good in the heavens that I have seen in some time.

Leo has a simple, but clear and potent message. Know yourselves, then cast all doubt aside. Fix your eye on your goals and proceed with determination. And when you encounter your fellow travelers inspire their hearts with the fire that burns so brightly in yours, for all hearts beat the rhythm of life eternal, and unconquerable. Leo always knows: "I am that and that I am." And when the die is cast, the work proceeds and the world stops to take notice, let us all heed the words of my father, who is in North Carolina, and pronounce with all the love and truth within us "Here we all are, you lucky world!" (Well, maybe not quite in those terms.) And the world is lucky, indeed, to have us all!

May we all be a be a living Presence for all who pass our way.

Malvin Artley, astrologer and leading occultist, is a regular contributor to Astrology on the Web. Malvin also publishes a regular astrological newsletter, to which you can subscribe by clicking the link at the end of this article. The Full Moon in Aquarius is the Full Moon period for Leo, because the Full Moon is always in the opposite sign to where the Sun is placed on that day. This festival coincides with the Festival of Sirius, the Dog Star. Sirius is the Sun of the Sun, the central star of our galaxy.

[[SOURCE](#)]